

# CITY OF JERSEY CITY

JERRAMIAH T. HEALY  
MAYOR



CITY HALL  
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07302  
TEL:(201) 547-5200  
FAX:(201) 547-4288

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 8, 2008

Contact: Jennifer Morrill  
Press Secretary  
**201-547-4836**  
**201-376-0699**

## ***“One Handgun a Month” Legislation Passes Senate Law & Public Safety Committee; Advances to Full Senate***

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy** testified before the New Jersey Senate’s Law, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs Committee today in support of the One Handgun a Month Bill (S1774/A339) currently before the state Legislature.

The bill – which passed by a 3-2 margin – would regulate handgun purchases to one handgun per purchaser per month. The legislation will now advance to the full Senate for consideration.

“Multiple purchases of handguns have been labeled as inherently suspicious by the ATF and are one of the primary methods that illegal firearms get into the hands of criminals,” said **Mayor Healy**. “We are pleased that this important piece of public safety legislation has advanced in the Senate and look forward to it becoming a state law.”

In June 2006, Mayor Healy introduced and the City Council passed a “One Handgun a Month” ordinance limiting the amount of handguns an individual could purchase to one per month. With NRA support and financial backing, a local gun dealer challenged the ordinance in Superior Court and the ordinance was struck down.

The judge ruled that Jersey City was pre-empted by state law from enacting such an ordinance and that the ordinance unreasonably discriminated against Jersey City gun dealers. That verdict was upheld by the Appellate Division, but the city is appealing to the New Jersey Supreme Court while it also pursues legislative action.

The Senate version of the bill is sponsored by Senator Sandra Cunningham Senator Teresa Ruiz. The Assembly version of the bill was passed in June and was sponsored by Assemblywoman Joan Quigley and Assemblyman Joseph Vas.

**Media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///**